

OPC Bulletin

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • APRIL 1995

Awards Dinner to Fête Top Journalists

The Club's 56th Annual Awards Dinner will feature Robert MacNeil, executive editor of "The MacNeil/Lehrer News-Hour" and one of the most respected journalists engaged in covering the world. Friend and fellow Canadian Morley Safer, co-editor of "60 Minutes," will present



Robert MacNeil

awards in 18 categories. The dinner is Wednesday, April 26, at the Grand Hyatt in Manhattan. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m.

OPC President Bill Holstein will present his President's Award for Lifetime Achievement to MacNeil, who is retiring from his evening news partnership with Jim Lehrer after 19 years. At a time when so many television programs have veered toward the sensational and so-called "infotainment," the MacNeil/Lehrer team has steadfastly

persisted in serious, critical examination of international issues. Defying conventional industry wisdom, that has led to an increase in viewership and made the MacNeil/Lehrer show the most credible among TV news programs, according to the Roper organization.

Accepting awards will be an exciting parade of correspondents and photographers who have gone to the ends of the earth, in many cases risking their lives. Award-winners are from top newspapers, magazines, television networks, photo agencies, radio stations and wire services. They are being honored for their work in covering Russia, Bosnia, Rwanda, Haiti, India, the Mideast, and other tough assignments.

MacNeil worked his way up in the profession covering equally difficult stories. His journalism career began in 1955 at Reuters in London. He moved to television reporting in 1960 as an NBC News London-based correspondent. For the next three years, he covered fighting in the Belgian Congo, the civil war in Algeria, the construction of the Berlin Wall and the Cuban missile

crisis. In 1963, he transferred to NBC's Washington bureau and found himself in Dallas covering John F. Kennedy's assassination. In 1965, he became the New York anchor of the first half-hour weekend network news broadcast, "The Scherer-MacNeil Report" on NBC.

He returned to London in 1967 as a reporter for the BBC's "Panorama" series, crossing the Atlantic to cover



Morley Safer

such major stories as the 1968 Democratic convention in Chicago. In 1971, he left the BBC to become a senior correspondent for the National Public Affairs Center for Television in Washington, where he began his association with Lehrer. He is the author of numerous books.

Morley Safer's international career also centered on London. He joined
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Club Loses a Dear Friend

Past President H.L. Stevenson Dies

By Bill Holstein
OPC President

He seemed to be recovering after several close brushes with death, but H.L. Stevenson died suddenly on March 30 in Stamford, Conn., where he was undergoing rehabilitation. A funeral service was held Monday April 3 in Rye. The Overseas Press Club will be organizing a memorial service in Manhattan in May or early June.

Steve was a giant of American journalism, and as such was often more feared than loved. He was a tough man. Anyone who had ever witnessed him storming into the UPI newsroom and

peering over his black bifocals at a managing editor or a foreign editor understood that Steve was not a man to underestimate.

But it was this force of personality that led him from a small newspaper in Picayune, Miss. to become editor-in-chief of United Press International at a time when anyone who belonged to that organization uttered its name with a real sense of pride. Did Steve know that the economic underpinnings of the agency were about to get kicked out from under him, resulting in a devastating downward spiral? We may never know. Steve

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Remembrances of Things Past

The Day Time Stood Still

Editor's Note: In light of the OPC's recent upgrade to new offices at 320 East 42nd Street, George E. Burns, who helped out with the move, recalled a similar occasion and offered this article which ran 22 years ago in the Bulletin.

By George E. Burns

A squad of distinguished members in unaccustomed motley attire—lumber-jack shirts, gardening trousers and sneakers—lined up before the OPC's celebrated Wall of Clocks, drew themselves to their best recollection of attention, saluted gravely and pulled the plug.

Time stopped all over the world.

It was 1:27 a.m. in Peking, 2:27 a.m. in Tokyo, 12:27 p.m. in New York, 2:27 p.m. in Rio de Janeiro, 5:27 p.m. in London, and 3:33 a.m. in Moscow.

"Damned Communists," one member muttered, "never in step with the rest of the world."

Thus ended the OPC's tenancy in the Time-Life Building on Saturday, May 13, [1973] after a seven-month standoff battle against the massed forces of Economics.

Moving chairman Sol Zatt deployed the rear guard that covered the evacuation. It was John MacAllister, Leon Thiel, Marguerite Cartwright and George Burns' job to inventory the liquor. It was Judge Allman's job to watch MacAllister, Thiel, Cartwright and Burns.

An advance party of John Parry, Wilma Dobie and Mrs. Allman established a command post in the new quarters two blocks away. Armed with elaborate charts, they directed the movers like traffic cops, whistling and waving a banquette into this corner, a service bar into that, an owl into a third.

When the dust, furniture and movers had settled, the baleful bird surveyed a small room with an L-shaped bar, a half-dozen stools and a few tables. There was also a larger room ringed with banquettes and lined with small tables and chairs, and a spacious marble-floor foyer destined for more tables and chairs. But at the moment, it was a warehouse of TVs, files and upended chairs.

Several days later, a crew comprising other club members installed on the walls the famed front pages that identify the OPC clubrooms.

The Wall of Clocks went into storage in the basement, and the grand bar from the Time-Life rooms was to be stored pending its need in the ballroom, pursuant to an agreement between Mr. Zatt and the WNRC officers, who were guests at the OPC's Western regional

dinner the week before.

Mr. Zatt spent a great deal of time assuring the moving committee that the fact all the WNRC officers had won doors prizes at the dinner had nothing to do with this decision, and that he had nothing whatsoever to do with the fact all the officers won door prizes.

Among the major decisions the moving committee reached concerned the one small convenience room off the clubroom foyer, some two floors closer to the action than the principal lavatories.

Chauvinism and pragmatism merged in discussing whether the lavatory that had served the ladies of the club (and had clearly been designed for that purpose) should now be re-placarded, perhaps even reconfigured to serve the new, predominantly male constituency of the premises.

The most advanced and sophisticated thinking prevailed in the committee's decision to recommend that this suite be declared and placarded The Unisex Room, a decision reached not empirically, but only after thorough and satisfactory testing by the committee itself.

George E. Burns, a longtime member, is now Treasurer of the OPC.



George E. Burns

**Got a good story?
Been someplace hot?**

**Send the *Bulletin*
your tales
from the trenches.**

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MEDIA WATCH

BRATISLAVA: Last month 10 newspapers across Slovakia published nearly blank front pages. The reason: to protest a proposed tax increase by Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar's party that could force them out of business. The front pages carried a statement asserting that the proposed increases "threaten the work of the press in Slovakia and the right of Slovak citizens to choose their sources of information." Says Oliver Brunovsky, an editor of the business newspaper *Trend*, "Meciar's method is to hit us and see if he can get away with it....This time it didn't work, but he'll keep trying." (*The New York Times*)

HONG KONG: The arrival of Communist rule is still three summers away, but Hong Kong's rambunctious, free-swinging press is already beginning to pull its punches lest it offend its future rulers. Rupert Murdoch last year removed the BBC's TV news from a satellite broadcasting system when the Chinese protested the network's critical coverage of China. Also last year, a Hong Kong television station, TVB, bought the rights to a highly critical BBC documentary of Mao Zedong. But it has refused to show it. There is one bright spot: A new newspaper, *Apple*, is scheduled to appear this summer. Founder Jimmy Lai says the paper's subject will be sin and evil, primarily among the political leaders in Beijing. (*The New York Times*)

MOSCOW: The gangland-style murder early last month of a prominent television journalist, Vladislav Listyev, signals the rapid development of Russian television. Big new money and markets have attracted graft and crime, but they have also given rise to privately owned and relatively independent networks like TV6 Moscow, which have weakened the state's once-firm grip over television broadcasts. "Even such tragic events as the killing of Mr. Listyev will make journalists tougher and work more professionally, because they understand what responsibility rests on them for the preservation of democracy," says TV6 President Eduard M. Sagalayev. (*The New York Times*)

Major Dailies Go On-line

Concerned with declining readership and surging paper costs, newspaper publishers are experimenting with interactive computer editions. Scores of papers, from small local weeklies to large dailies, are already available on the major commercial on-line services or the Internet. Although none is a big economic or journalistic force yet, the trend is strong, and it has finally penetrated the upper tier of the U.S. newspaper industry.

Within a few months, all four of the country's premier newspapers will be on-line. Here's a quick roundup of their emerging electronic versions.

The New York Times can be found on American Online under the title @times. This electronic edition, free to AOL subscribers, bears no visual resemblance to its paper parent but is easy to use and colorful.

The Wall Street Journal came out last month with a limited edition called Personal Journal. It isn't a full-blown interactive newspaper (the *Journal* is working on one) but a targeted search-

and-retrieval system that downloads to a user's computer news and market statistics that are updated throughout the day. It's available only directly from Dow Jones and costs \$12.95 a month for one download daily. Extra downloads are 50 cents each.

The Los Angeles Times is on Prodigy under the name TimesLink and, like its parent, is filled with lengthy stories on every imaginable topic. Prodigy members pay \$4.95 a month extra for the paper, plus any hourly charges that apply in general to the service. Nonmembers can buy it for \$6.95 a month, without hourly fees.

The Washington Post expects to launch its on-line edition this summer on the new Interchange on-line service, owned by AT&T. The Interchange technology permit highly sophisticated news searches that can be performed automatically and allows a rich combination of photos, tables and text that go beyond plain text. The *Post* will sell it directly for a price it hasn't yet determined.

Look for Upcoming *Dateline*

"The New World Disorder" is the theme of this year's *Dateline*, and it's going to be one of the best in many moons. Watch for it.

Bill Holstein and a team of top *Business Week* people are editing, designing and producing the 80-page, four-color magazine. Authors include Michael Ignatieff, author of *Blood and Belonging*; Paris intellectual Andre Glucksman; *New York Times* Bosnia correspondent Roger Cohen; *Los Angeles Times* White House correspondent Doyle McManus; and the *Wall Street Journal's* Bob Davis.

The list goes on: Josh Hammer of *Newsweek*, Laura Randall of World Television News, Deborah Seward of

the Associated Press, Juliette Rossant of *Forbes*, Larry Martz of *World Press Review*, and others.

Aside from the writing, the most sensational aspect of this year's *Dateline* is the photography and design. The *Business Week* team includes designer Jay Petrow, photo editor Michael Hirsch, production manager Richard Ballestrino and copy chief Michael Mercurio. Hirsch has secured the cooperation of all the major photo agencies, allowing *Dateline* to use the best photography in the profession. *Parade's* Jane Ciabattari, an OPC board member, is senior editor.

Look for all their names on *Dateline's* masthead!

Awards Dinner Set for April 26

(Continued from Front Page)

CBS News in 1964 as a correspondent in London and became bureau chief in 1967. In that post, he covered Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. He opened CBS News' Saigon bureau in 1965, served two tours in Vietnam and received several major honors for his

coverage. He returned to London but left in 1970 to join "60 Minutes" in New York, where he has played a major role for 25 years.

To make your reservations for a memorable evening, contact Club Manager Sonya Fry at (212) 983-4655.

H.L. STEVENSON

(Continued from Page 1)

had been working on a book about what happened at UPI, but now obviously he will never finish it.

After he left UPI, Steve focused much of his energy on the Overseas Press Club and the OPC Foundation. He essentially willed the OPC to survive and was the one who orchestrated the introduction of new blood onto the board, including Larry Smith and myself.

Then he began revving up the Foundation, using it to help young, aspiring, internationally minded journalists. It was a cause in which he fervently believed. The last time I spoke with him was after his heart attack in November, as we were gearing up the January scholarship luncheon. He was optimistic about living a better lifestyle and improving his health.

But then he descended into pneumonia and emphysema, which was followed by kidney failure. Because of his tracheotomy, he and I were never able to talk again. Attracting the *New York Times'* managing editor Gene Roberts to speak before a paying audience of 100, and handing out \$1,000 checks to four scholarship winners, was the ultimate ratification of Steve's efforts.

After he died, someone asked me if he was a "nice guy." No, that's not the first description that comes to mind. What Steve had was a vision of how a news organization should function. What standards should be upheld. What level of ambition should be encouraged. He understood the importance of our profession, and the entire cycle of educating, grooming, transferring, and promoting talented people. I realize now his standards became my standards. And it was his sense of mission that shaped mine. These are the reasons I respected him. And in an era of so many fallen heroes, that is my highest accolade. Respect.

I also owed him, as so many journalists do. Mine is an example of the power he had to shape lives. As an aspiring foreign correspondent, working on NX Cables Overnight, I received a phone



H.L. Stevenson

Japan's POWs and the A-Bomb: OPCer's Research Reveals Truth

OPC member Linda Goetz Holmes is the author of 4000 Bowls of Rice: A Prisoner of War Comes Home (Allen & Unwin, \$19.95), which was reviewed in the Bulletin last October. In the following article, she discusses her research into Japan's plan to execute all of its World War II prisoners of war.

By Linda Goetz Holmes

On August 15, 1945, the U.S. Navy destroyer *Thomas J. Gary* waited off Formosa as Japanese citizens and military personnel heard their emperor's voice on the radio for the first time, announcing Japan's unconditional surrender to the Allies. Shortly after Emperor Hirohito finished speaking, a landing party of Marines and Navy personnel from the *Gary* went ashore. Their mission: to free Allied prisoners at the camp in Taihoku and to seize all documents.

The records confiscated that day became the most complete file of instructions on the treatment of Pacific prisoners known to exist. More importantly, they contained an explosive piece of evidence: the only written confirmation that all POWs were to be executed.

The execution order was issued by Naoichi Kawabara, Japan's Vice Minister of War, on whose direct orders the treatment of POWs was administered. Under the heading of "methods," Kawabara's instructions read: "Whether they are destroyed individually or in groups, or however it is done, with mass bombing, poisonous smoke, poisons,

drowning, decapitation or what, dispose of them as the situation dictates. In any case it is the aim not to allow the escape of a single one, to annihilate them all, and not to leave any traces."

Five days after the emperor's radio address, Kawabara sent his final instructions to POW camp commanders, advising: "Personnel who mistreated prison-



Linda Goetz Holmes

ers of war and internees...are permitted to take care of it...by fleeing without trace. Moreover, documents which would be unfavorable for us in the hands of the enemy are to be treated in the same way as secret documents and destroyed when finished with." The commandant at Taihoku didn't get a chance to carry out that final order—which explains why his copy is apparently the only execution order known to exist.

On August 15, 1945 at the Ban Pong POW camp in Thailand, the staff was preparing to carry out Kawabara's instructions the following week, when the British were expected to invade Burma. Takashi Nagase an interpreter for the *kempetai* (Japanese secret police), recollected in a February 16, 1995, letter responding to my query: "If the day August 22, 1945 were the day of invasion really, I was forced to kill the POWs by gun...by Emperor's order, we all soldiers along the railway were

call one day at home at about 4 p.m. It was Steve. "Bill, we need you in Hong Kong." Cathy and I moved up our wedding date and got on the airplane.

I was fascinated by the opening of China, the same phenomenon that led Steve to open a Beijing bureau and send young reinforcements to Hong Kong. Then one day, someone tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Kid, you just won an OPC prize. Best economic reporting from abroad." I didn't know who had submitted my work. I suspect it was Steve. Whoever did it, I was suddenly an award-winning foreign correspondent. That explains why I have dedicated so much time and energy to

Steve's beloved OPC. I hope all of us who have been shaped and affected by Steve will continue to help revitalize this important organization.

Editor's Note: An obituary of H.L. Stevenson appeared in The New York Times on March 31 and April 1. He is survived by his wife, the former LaVerne Harris, and a daughter, Jennifer, a reporter for The St. Petersburg Times in Florida. In lieu of flowers or other donations, contributions may be made to the Overseas Press Club Foundation/H.L. Stevenson Memorial Scholarship Fund.

forced to annihilate all the POWs. I happened to see the top-secret documents concerning the annihilation operation at the Ban Pong military police office just before the end of the war." Nagase also happened to see all the documents being burned on August 15.

In Tokyo Bay on August 14, 1945, Harold Stassen, flag officer to Admiral William "Bull" Halsey, had the watch when the announcement came to cease hostilities. Stassen had been put in charge of locating and rescuing Allied prisoners held in Japan. One of the first places he reached was the one where B-29 pilot Raymond "Hap" Halloran was being held. "We have come for the prisoners of war," Stassen told the Japanese officer in charge. "I have no authority to release them to you," the officer protested. "You have no authority, period," Stassen snapped, and proceeded to personally release Halloran.

Forty-nine years and six months after their ordeal ended, Halloran and other Pacific ex-POWs finally got a chance to tell their stories to the historians scholars and media types who had ignored them for so long. At a symposium March 18 and 19 at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, sponsored by the Admiral Nimitz Museum, the former prisoners joined civilian survivors of Japanese and United States internment camps, scholars, historians, scientists, decision-makers and journalists at the gathering, titled "1945—Crucible of Deliverance: Prisoners of War and the A-Bomb." I had the privilege of covering the event for *The Australian*.

Among the historians present, only Gavan Daws cited the written POW execution orders, which appear in his 1994 book, *Prisoners of the Japanese*. He had located the documents in the U.S. National Archives, where I also accessed them along with additional data last month, with the assistance of senior archivist John E. Taylor, who has worked at the archives since 1945. Taylor is a reporter's dream: if he doesn't personally know where to find something, he can tell you who does.

Participating in a session moderated by Daws were ex-POWs who had survived the brutalities of Bataan, Corregidor, Manchuria, Japan, the Burma Railway, and other spots throughout the Pacific. Otto Schwarz, a survivor of the *USS Houston* and the Burma Railway, had a copy of the execution order; I was the only one who knew who had signed

it and how it was retrieved.

One by one, the ex-prisoners spoke. All knew that the Japanese did not plan for the 100,000 POWs still alive in 1945 to survive the war. All said, "The atom bomb saved my life." Throughout the day, an audience of some 800 listened in hushed silence, including Edward Teller, now 87, who helped develop the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki August 9, 1945. (The next day, Japan surrendered unconditionally.)

For 50 years, Teller had maintained that it wasn't necessary to use his bomb, that Japan was on the verge of surrendering, and that a demonstration bomb in the air might have done the trick. Teller, scheduled to keynote the final symposium session, was sought out by several ex-POWs who thanked him personally for saving their lives.

As he rose to speak, Teller put aside his prepared text. Looking up at the ex-POW faces in the tiered auditorium, he electrified the room in one sentence: "For the first time I had a real impression which almost amounts to a moral justification for using the atomic bomb." Overnight, he declared, he had come to realize what he described as "An unshakable fact: we *had* to come to the aid of prisoners of war; we *had* to make peace." It was a pronouncement the ex-POWs had waited half a century to hear from a public figure. And for me, it made my four years of following this story deeply satisfying.

Perhaps the final word to settle debate about using the A-bomb came from strategy historian Norman Polmar, who recalled a 1970 press conference at the Naval Institute in Washington, D.C. with Minoru Genda, first postwar commander-in-chief of Japan's air defense force. Asked whether Japan would have used an A-bomb on U.S. targets, Genda shrugged and said in perfect English: "Why not?"

On March 20, as I checked out of the hotel, I saw Polmar, his co-author Tom Allen, and historian Barton Bernstein (chief consultant for the Smithsonian/Enola Gay script) huddled with ex-POW Schwarz as he showed them one document after another. Bernstein rode with me to the airport, listening intently as I shared data from my book and more recent interviews. As I inscribed a copy for him, I thought: This is what it's all about. Historians pore through archives; journalists interview the people who were there. Together, maybe we'll get it right.

Linda Goetz Holmes has spent her entire professional career in broadcast and print reporting and editing. A former script editor for CBS Television, she was coordinator of film production at Ted Bates Advertising before turning to freelance investigative reporting and occasional op-ed pieces in The New York Times, Newsday, and regional press.
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Australian, Dutch and Malay prisoners line up at a canteen hut in Kanchanaburi, Thailand. No supplies were issued to these POWs during three and a half years of internment. The Japanese withheld Red Cross parcels containing medicine, clothing and utensils.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL CANBERRA

PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

ARLINGTON, VA: Two daughters of OPCer **Henry Hartzenbusch**, longtime AP correspondent and news executive in Asia, and his wife Nancy, are following in their father's footsteps. In March, daughter **Lara** joined the new CNBC news bureau in Hong Kong, where her father was a regional AP executive several years ago. Last year daughter **Nanine**, a photographer, moved from *Newsday* to the AP bureau in Philadelphia.

FAIRFAX, VA: Author and Pulitzer-prize reporter **David Halberstam** recently talked to students at George Mason University, where he holds the Heritage Chair in Writing this academic year. At a class on Asia politics, Halberstam told the students: "You guys will be competing for jobs with the children of Jakarta, Osaka, Beijing, Saigon....They work hard; they're hungry. I'd take it seriously if I were you."

FRENCH RIVIERA: Want to buy a villa or apartment on the French Riviera? If so, write to **Doris Macauley**, a longtime OPC member who was interned by the Japanese in the Philippines during World War II after hiding out with Filipino guerrillas. Her address: 1 Avenue Grand Bretagne, 06230 Villefranche-sur-Mer, France.

HONG KONG: CNN and NBC are setting up new broadcast operations in Hong Kong. As senior producer, **Donna Liu**, who earlier freelanced in Hong Kong, is in charge of the CNN bureau that starting this spring is co-anchoring and co-producing a nightly newscast from Hong Kong and Atlanta, providing CNN with more Asian news. Hired by NBC from a Singapore business news broadcaster, **Sasha Salama** is managing editor for CNBC's new Asia business channel that plans to start broadcasts in English and several Asian languages later this spring.

JERUSALEM: Michael Parks, Jerusalem bureau chief for *The Los Angeles Times* and a foreign correspondent for nearly a quarter century, has been named deputy foreign editor.

JOHANNESBURG: OPC sources tell us that **Bill Keller**, Johannesburg bureau chief for *The New York Times* and former Moscow bureau chief in Moscow, will return to New York in June to become the paper's new foreign editor. He will replace Bernard Gwertzman, who will move to a new position, to be determined. A *Times* spokeswoman would only comment, "Bernard Gwertzman is still the foreign editor."

LOS ANGELES: The *Los Angeles Times* has hired **Evelyn Iritani** to cover Pacific Rim business and trade, a beat she covered for the past nine years at the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.

MILAN: **Indro Montanelli** of Milan's *La Voce* has been named International Editor of the Year for 1994 by *World Press Review* magazine. The honor is given annually to an editor working outside the U.S. for "enterprise, courage, and leadership in advancing press freedom and responsibility, enhancing human rights, and fostering excellence in journalism." Montanelli, 85, founded *La Voce* last year, following his departure from another Milan daily, *Il Giornale*, which he started 20 years earlier. His resignation from *Il Giornale* came in a dispute with the paper's de facto owner, Silvio Berlusconi, who wanted the paper to be another mouthpiece for his political movement. Montanelli refused and quit; then he rounded up financing and started the new paper. Some 50 *Giornale* journalists followed him to *La Voce*, which became a leading critic of the short-lived government led by Berlusconi.

NEW YORK: **Van Gordon Sauter**, a former president of CBS News, will become president and general manager of KVIE, a public television station in Sacramento, Calif., on May 1. Sauter told *The New York Times* that he had never worked for a nonprofit group before, adding: "But God knows this is

a remarkable time in the evolution of public broadcasting and a unique opportunity for a station president to find ways to do it better." To make the station "more than a mere transmission cog for PBS, he plans more local programming, including televised town meetings and sports.

For his reporting from Rwanda, **Mark Fritz**, an AP national writer, won a \$10,000 Jesse Laventhol Prize from the American Society of Newspaper Editors in February for deadline news reporting. He was cited for "interviews with ordinary people who had slaughtered neighboring families and reports on the government leaders who had inspired the mass murders." Now based in New York, Fritz, 38, has reported from East Berlin, the Persian Gulf, Somalia and Rwanda.



Mark Fritz

Peter Gardner, publisher and editor-in-chief of *The Northern Centinel*, a bimonthly journal of opinion, invites fellow OPCers to submit brief articles (300-900 words) on their observations of world events, recent travels abroad, etc. Gardner, the son of OPC stalwart **Ralph Gardner**, says a small honorarium plus a one-year subscription, is available. For more information, contact The Northern Centinel, 115 East 82nd Street, NY, NY 10028, (212) 772-0055.

PHOENIX: **Jack Casserly**, whose reporting has taken him from the Korean War front to the Vatican, published two new books this spring. Out in March, *The Dancing Angel* (Donald I. Fine), Casserly's first novel, is set in Chicago and deals with current controversies in the Catholic Church. In *Once Upon a Time in Italy: The Vita Italiana of an American Journalist* (Roberts Rinehart), due in April, Casserly writes a memoir of his years in Rome, 1957 to 1964, when he worked in turn as bureau chief for INS, Hearst Headline Service and ABC.

TOKYO: *Automotive News* has hired *Business Week* Detroit correspondent Jim Treece and will transfer him to

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LETTERS

British Health Coverage

To the Editor:

It is quite simply untrue that no one over a certain age limit can obtain some surgical procedures in Great Britain ("Experts Puncture Myths about Foreign Health Care Systems," December). The fact is that Britons can purchase private health coverage if they wish, and that doctors can take part in the National Health Service and also have private patients.

Charles Sweeting, Editor
British & Commonwealth Calendar
New York, NY

Pioneering Women

To the Editor:

I was glad to see the story on women's oral history ("Oral History Project Recalls Women Reporters' Struggles," February). It is time all of us were honored and appreciated by the young women who came after us.

During and after World War II, I was working at United Press in New York, married to a reporter from the *Daily News*. We were told at United Press we could keep our jobs only if we were as good as the men returning. I kept my job — that was easier than getting someone to interview me.

Elizabeth Poston McHarry
Editor and Publisher
The Ferndale Enterprise
Ferndale, Calif.

Thanks

To the OPC:

Meeting all of you on the 26th of January was truly a pleasure. Sitting in the same room with so many people that have been all over the world for the benefit of mankind made me feel much closer to my dream of becoming an international asset to my fellow [Armenian] countrymen.

Thank you for the opportunity of a lifetime.

Linda Garbarino
Winner, OPC Foundation
Reuters Scholarship, Bloomingburg, NY

What's on your mind?
Let us know with a letter.

Tokyo this summer. Treece is a veteran Asian hand, having worked for AP-Dow Jones in Singapore and Tokyo and then for *BW* in Tokyo.

WASHINGTON: Barrie Dunsmore, who retired as diplomatic correspondent for ABC News in February, is winner of the 1995 Edward Weintal Prize for broadcast journalism, to be awarded at Georgetown University on April 25. Dunsmore, who has covered foreign affairs for 30 years, has accepted a fellowship at the Joan Barone Shorenstein Center on Press, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Starting this fall, he will study "live war and live television—and the need for guidelines."

DECEASED: Longtime member Edward L. Greif, who pioneered the use of public relations techniques for civil rights issues, religious organizations, public health and trade shows, died March 23 at his home in Scarsdale. He was 85. Founder of the New York-based Banner & Greif, Ltd., one of the oldest independent PR firms in the country, he developed the first anti-venereal disease program of the U.S. Public Health Service in 1948. Later, in the mid-1960s, he helped the United Church of Christ



Edward L. Greif

block the renewal of a TV license to a discriminatory Southern station, WLBT in Jackson, Miss. The battle between the Church and the Federal Communication Commission resulted in a landmark case that established the legal standing of public interest groups before the FCC, and helped change broadcasting throughout the country.

Henry R. (Hank) Lieberman, a *New York Times* correspondent in Asia for 12 years after World War II and later a *Times* editor, died March 15 of a stroke at his home in Scarsdale, N.Y. He was 78. Lieberman, who had worked for *The Times* in New York before going to China with the Office of War Information in World War II, rejoined the paper in Shanghai after Japan's surrender. From 1950 to 1956, he covered Southeast Asia from Hong Kong and then spent a year in New Delhi before returning to New York as a *Times* editor.

Don Cook, a foreign correspondent who covered the end of World War II in Europe and Western Europe's postwar recovery for *The New York Herald Tribune* and later for *The Los Angeles Times*, died March 7 at his home in Philadelphia. He was 74. Cook retired from *The LA Times* in 1988 as its European diplomatic correspondent. Among the events he covered were the liberation of Paris, the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Berlin crisis and the summit meetings between Reagan and Gorbachev.

Moshe Brilliant, a contributing correspondent for *The New York Times* in Israel for 38 years, died March 17 in Tel-Hashomer Chaim Sheba Hospital in Tel Aviv. He was 79. From 1949 until he retired eight years ago, Brilliant filed secondary articles, and main stories that broke when *The Times'* staff correspondents were out of the country. He was *The Times'* only representative in the country in 1956, when Israeli troops invaded Sinai.

NEW MEMBERS: Shirley L. Benzer, a publicist in Montreal (active overseas).

Biddle Duke, correspondent for the *Buenos Aires Herald*, based in Buenos Aires (active overseas).

Nicolas B. Tatro, Jerusalem bureau chief for the Associated Press (active overseas).

Ravi Kotru, freelancer for U.S. and Indian publications, based in New York (active resident).

Bunthan Eang, editor-in-chief of the *Cambodian Press* in Lowell, Mass. (active non-resident).

Robert Manheimer, editor of DANY News Service, based in Atlanta (active non-resident).

Edwin M. Reingold, acting director of the Center for International Journalism at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles (active non-resident).

Yutaka Yoshizawa, deputy consul general at the Consulate General of Japan in New York (associate resident).

At 86, Columbia Rossi Finds Her New Adventures on Canvas

As a veteran correspondent, Columbia Rossi has always enjoyed covering a good story. But back in 1959, she herself made international headlines when she was arrested by Fidel Castro's soldiers and detained for 12 hours in Cuba.

Rossi had gone there to investigate friends' reports that Castro was establishing a communist state by confiscating sugar plantations and placing people in communes. "I wanted to find out for myself," she recalls. "When I went, I was shocked at the change."

After photographing a submarine unloading missiles from Russia, Rossi and another reporter were arrested and thrown in jail. They were saved when the OPC's Freedom of the Press Committee cabled Castro demanding their release. He complied, and Rossi later filed her story for the International News Service, the wire service of Hearst publications.

Nowadays, at 86, she's taking things a bit easier, but remains active pursuing her longtime hobby: oil painting. At her home in Levittown, NY, she paints tranquil street scenes based on her experiences in Latin America and Europe. Her prize-winning works have been exhibited in several shows throughout Long Island. One of them, a scene of Venice, was graciously donated to the Overseas Press Club. In artistic circles, she is known as Cervi.

Rossi's journalistic career began in the early 1930s, when she and her hus-

band started a news photo agency, Cosmo-Sileo Photos. The agency did business with the motion picture and sports industries. "Stars like Lucille Ball and Bette Davis came in for photo sessions," she remembers, as did sports figures Babe Ruth and Joe DeMaggio.

In 1939, a sense of adventure led her to enter civil war-torn Spain. Barely four months after the conflict was over, she became the only American newsperson allowed into the country. During World War II, a freighter she was on was torpedoed on the high seas.

After joining the OPC in 1951, she began covering Latin America and Cuba, where she witnessed Batista's coup d'état and Castro's takeover. During this time she also served on the OPC's Inter-American Committee, among others.

Rossi has written a manuscript called "Even the Sugarcane Weeps," about her experiences in Cuba from 1952 to 1959. She is attempting to get it published, along with several other manuscripts telling about her career.

(Above right) Columbia Rossi chats with Edward R. Murrow at an OPC awards party at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in 1962. (Right) At a Long Island exhibit five years ago.



The Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.
320 East 42nd Street, Mezzanine
New York, NY 10017 USA

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with Robert MacNeil,
of The MacNeil/Lehrer
NewsHour

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